U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEW YORK CONSERVATION PRACTICE GUIDELINE

STRIPCROPPING

(ACRE)

585

REFERENCES

National Handbook of Conservation Practices-Code 585 - Stripcropping.

Commonly Associated Processes or Practices

The following conservation practices are commonly used in conjunction with this practice to address natural resource concerns and opportunities in New York. This does not imply that any or all of the listed practices must be included or that others may not be included in a conservation management system (CMS). Consult Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide for assistance in developing CMS.

Note: To determine whether a National or New York Conservation Standard applies to this and any other associated practices, check the following website: www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on the "eFOTG" icon, and look for the Conservation Standards in Section IV.

Table A: Commonly Associated Processes or Practices

Number	Name	Job/Engineering Sheets
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	
329A	Residue Management, No-Till and Strip Till	NY Jobsheets 21 and 22
329B	Residue Management, Mulch Till	NY Jobsheets 21 and 22
329C	Residue Management, Ridge Till	
340	Cover and Green Manure Crop	NY Jobsheet 16
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	
362	Diversion	NY ENG 22 and 23
412	Grassed Waterway	NY ENG 24 and 25
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	NY ENG 25a
500	Obstruction Removal	
590	Nutrient Management	
595A	Pest Management	
600	Terrace	
606	Subsurface Drainage	NY ENG 28 and 29
620	Underground Outlet	NY ENG 28 and 29
633	Waste Utilization	
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	

Other References

"How To-Conservation on Your Own" video.

Engineering Field Handbook Chapter 8.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resource reviews will be conducted for all ground disturbing practices, components, or other activities, as per the State Level Agreement between NRCS and the New York State Historic Preservation Officer.

INVENTORY AND EVALUATION

1. Determine landowner/operator needs and objectives.
2. Evaluate landscape characteristics for feasibility of laying out a stripcropping system.
3. Determine impact and need for associated practices.
4. Consider equipment width and tillage practices.
5. Calculate existing soil loss with present cropping system and planned stripcropping system.

PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCEDURE

1. Develop site plan map of general layout using USGS Topographic map as a guide and aerial photographs. Review map with farmer for agreement.
2. A documented survey is needed at time of practice layout to record the alignment of the baseline(s) and variation from field slope and the standard. The baseline will meet all minimums or maximums as specified in the standard.
3. Record the number and width of strips based on farm equipment (type and width), soil loss reduction objectives, and the practice standard. Determine the location of any correction strips and odd areas. Consider the advantages of installing narrow strips that can be worked in pairs for ease in turning for larger farm equipment.
4. Investigate the feasibility of combining fields for more efficient operation. The benefits of maintaining hedgerows for wildlife habitat diversity should be considered and encouraged.
5. Check out the need for engineering practices to control surface and/or subsurface water. If possible, install any needed measures before layout of strips (i.e. – diversions that can also be used as a baseline).
6. Select crop rotations that reduce erosion to acceptable levels while maintaining alternate strips of row crop and close grown crops or hay.
7. Maintaining headlands in permanent sod provides a means for turning equipment as well as effectively controlling soil erosion.

FIELD LAYOUT

1. Lay out a base line (EFM Chapter 8 – Terraces has information on Alignment, Layout Step-Off Set Method, pps. 8-25 through 8-54, that may be helpful) across the representative slope used for soil erosion prediction or follow existing or planned diversions or terraces.

2. Using a level or clinometer, flag a level contour or a gradient line across the face of the slope. Flag the line at 50 to 100 foot intervals. Once line is laid out, adjust flags as needed to make the layout farmable. Survey and document the baseline. The length of row gradient deviation from the planned row gradient should be kept to a minimum to prevent overtopping of furrows by surface water accumulation that can cause gully erosion.
3. Flag out strips parallel to the baseline using a tape measure, cam line, and right-angle prism. Alternate flag colors flags for each strip. Refer to "How to – Conservation on Your Own" video for details.
4. Field check the base line every fourth strip to ensure that the planned grade is being maintained.
5. If utility poles or other obstructions are present in the field, consider the need to modify the base line or strip width to facilitate farming operations. Try to keep trees, utility poles, or other obstructions on the strip boundaries.
6. Lay out the system so that odd or correction areas are located on flatter slopes or where they can be farmed practically.
7. Review system layout with producer. If possible, mark appropriate strip boundaries with tillage before leaving farm.

PRACTICE INSPECTION

Provide a level of inspection and documentation that ensures the practice meets the design layout, and the standard. Check strip orientation and width and ensure established cropping system complies with the standard.

FINAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Record as-installed survey notes and sketch the strip layout on an aerial photograph. Specify the width of the strips and actual deviation from the contour or planned specified grade and row length.
2. Record any areas that do not meet the standard due to unavoidable field irregularities.
3. Record notes on the NRCS-CPA-6 form.
4. Document amount applied and year applied on NRCS-CPA-68 and on the NRCS-LTP-11 if applicable.

REPORTING

Enter all documentation on the Conservation Plan (NRCS-CPA-68), contract document (NRCS-LTP-11) and Conservation Assistance Notes (NRCS-CPA-6/6A).

Report the practice and applicable components in the NRCS progress reporting system. Be certain to report benefits for all applicable resources and resource concerns as allowed in the NRCS progress reporting system.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Facilities, structures, and practices must be operated and maintained to ensure proper function and longevity. Periodic follow-up with the landowner is essential to ensure that all O&M requirements are understood and followed.